

Civil Support Team

Wyoming's 84th CST trains for disaster

By Army 1st Sgt. John Dowdy
WYOMING NATIONAL GUARD

Members of the Wyoming National Guard's 84th Civil Support Team (Weapons of Mass Destruction) conducted nine days of advanced emergency services training in March at the Texas Engineering Extension (TEEX) Service training institute in College Station, Texas.

The Wyoming contingent included members of the 84th CST, two civilian firefighters from Cheyenne and two Air National Guard members from the Wyoming Air Guard's 153rd Civil Engineering Squadron.

With help from professional staff members at TEEX, 84th members studied urban search and rescue, hazardous materials, high-angle rescue, confined space extraction, public health and weapons of mass destruction terrorism.

And they practiced it, too. For example, one morning was filled with rescue-rigging refresher training for a confined-space extraction. That was followed by additional confined-space rescue scenarios that required the team to hoist and lower patients to medical teams on the ground using tripods.

The Wyoming Guard members and civilian

counterparts also exercised on building collapses – from industrial to office to home – as well as train derailments and rubble piles.

The 84th interacted with experienced teams such as the New York City Fire Department Task Force, which recently helped save six lives within collapsed structures in Port au Prince, Haiti.

Members of the 84th said it was nice to be able to train with teams who have the “been there, done that” stamp of approval.

Actual deployments for the 84th have included operations during the Democratic National Convention in Denver, Colo., response to white powder reports at the state capitol, and identifying hazardous waste and debris mapping during the relief efforts of the Hurricane Ike aftermath.

The 84 CST is designed to assist civilian first responders during emergency situations and disasters locally, nationally and internationally.

The team is comprised of Wyoming Army and Air National Guard service members and can rapidly deploy to suspected or actual terrorist attacks, natural disasters and other emergency situations in support of local first responders.

-Dowdy is the first sergeant for the 84th CST



CSTs were there for...



... a **chemical incident** at Camp Williams, Utah, March 25, 2010, that resulted in 11 employees being sent to the hospital for treatment. Utah's 85th conducted a sweep of the building to identify the suspected source of the symptoms.

...the recent **Super Bowl XLIV** at Mi-

ami's Sun Life Stadium. Florida's 44th CST was on the ground and poised to support civil authorities.



...the **people of Salem,**

Oregon, to survey the scene after evidence of bomb making materials was found there in February 2010.

... **New Year's Eve celebrations** in New York. New York's 2nd CST stood ready to assist as an estimated million people partied in Times Square.



... an **anthrax scare** at the University of New Hampshire's Durham campus in December 2009.

The 12th CST played a crucial role in identifying a potentially lethal strain of anthrax. It detected traces of gastrointestinal anthrax at the United Campus Ministry Center there. It provided on-scene support to include entry teams, a mobile lab and decontamination operations. It collected 46 samples from African drums used inside the

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center. Two yielded positive results. A third positive sample came from an electrical outlet.

... a **massive fire at a refinery** near San Juan, P.R., in October 2009 to monitor air quality.

6 ... **Hurricane Ike** after it struck southeast Texas in September 2008. Texas' 6th and South Dakota's 82nd CSTs were directed to provide environmental quality support. The units helped identify substances that washed ashore along

the coast or had been displaced on the mainland, and advise civilian authorities on substance disposal.



... **the Ricin scare in Las Vegas** in February 2008. Nevada 92nd CST received their first real-world opportunity to use

their military training and expertise at this potential weapon of mass destruction incident when an unknown substance was discovered in a Las Vegas hotel suite.

CST FACT SHEET

- Identify Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear agents and substances, assess current and projected consequences, advise on response measures and assist with requests for additional support

- Operations mandated by state

- Receive more than 600 hours of high-tech training by agencies such as Federal Emergency Management Agency, Departments of Energy and Justice, and the Environmental Protection Agency

- 57 CSTs are located in each state and U.S. territory and Washington D.C.; two in California, New York and Florida

- 55 certified CSTs, remaining two in certification program during FY10.

- Under control of the governor, alert and on standby 24/7/365

- Deployable within 90 minutes (advance team); main body deployable within three hours

- Operates high tech equipment including a specialized/secure communications vehicle (Unified Command Suite), and a mobile analytical laboratory system with a full suite of chemical, biological, and radiological analysis equipment

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